

Capitain Demsack

Captain Dunsack

→ play in one act taken from
"Gave Head" by Joseph Hergeheimer.

Characters

Captain Dunsack

? ~~His daughter - Kate Voller?~~

His grand daughter, - Nettie Voller

Captain Summison -

Govt Summison

Time - the early 19 century, about 1840

Place - Salem Mass. - the Dunsack
sitting room. Furnished of
New England oil. That period
but not all brought out
furnished.

When curtain rises Hattie
Voller is discovered leaning
by window looking out
longingly towards the lighter
on a ship that is seen in
the distance in the harbor. -

She comes away faces back
and forward and returns again
to the window.

After a pause Agout
appears in window
Hattie.

Agout - ?! - Oh Agout you
must come here -

Agout?
Oh the contrary. I'm coming
in! (He leaps through window)

Mettie

(Looking towards door left - terrified)
That grandfather - "I, -

Against
I can't help it Mettie I had
to see you - I'm sailing
to-morrow.

Mettie

(Trying to control herself)
I was afraid to. - (goes
to window) I've watched them
preparing the ship all day.
At 5 he ~~wanders~~ ~~away~~ ~~off~~ (X in left)
~~Yonder the same old~~ ~~more~~
Will it be a long voyage?

Against

(He stands right helpless)
The usual - about three years. -

Hettie.

(She shudders, After a pause she
turns quickly - ~~for a moment~~
Gervit - "What am I going to do?"
- You're the only friend I've got.
(She holds out her hands pathetically)

(He holds out his arms to her)
~~They come to - together - He starts to~~
~~embrace her~~
Gervit -

Hettie! —

(They come to - together - He starts to
embrace her)

(Enter Captain Dimsack - door left)

(They see him - Hettie shivers away
from Gervit, Dimsack stands there
staring - saying them both. After a
pause he walks to window door -

(Back Centre) - "Things are open"

(Points to door) Dunsack

~~I have already destroyed that~~
You know, sir, my orders
are ~~that~~ summon ~~shall~~ cross
his threshold! -

(gent picks up his hat and hurries
out)

(Dunsack shuts door after him
and turns to retrieve what is
crouching left with hands
over her face. - He comes across
shaking fist at her)

Dunsack

I'd rather see you beaten black
and blue - I'd ~~rather~~ rather
see you stretched in your
grave than -

(His anger overcomes him and
he tumbles in drain gasping
for breath. - He slowly recovers

as she watches him ~~finely~~

~~of the kind of beauty~~

Hettie

(He sneels beside him pleadingly)
Grand-father - grand-father why
do you hate him so.

Samuel

(Slowly) - He is Jeremy Samuel's
son -

Hettie

But because you quarreled
with his father does that mean
we all have to quarrel with him

~~the son? (Bitterly) Does that mean that~~

~~Do always have to be the sufferer!~~

Samuel

(Slowly & sadly)

Jeremy Samuel - I am sure
deep respecting ~~the~~ citizens
never let a son of this family -

Darius

I have forbidden you to see
him. That ought to be enough.
Already - I think you are in love
with ~~this man~~ - but it is not
wise - ~~for every Sunday you~~

would never ~~know~~ you -

Helene Vallon! -

~~And~~ you know it is of no
use, ~~if~~ you know no good can
come of it -

Helene.

O a ~~but~~ why, why not? ~~isn't it~~?

Dunstable

~~This even if your letter had
not disappeared -~~

For my Annidon would never
~~let his~~ counsel to his son, marrying
any grand daughter of mine.
When old friends quarrel, child, -
it goes too deep - there is no
making it up. - Time doesn't
help that it has been made
~~between them~~ the rancor
bury itself the deeper -

Gov't realizes this - He is ~~not~~
~~just~~ just playing with you
~~and~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~isn't~~ ~~serious~~
what he says
It doesn't mean
to you - I know! X

~~Remember~~
~~Johnny Anderson's son would~~
~~have married you, Lucie Voller.~~

Mattie,

But why are you so sure? - spirit
is too kind and honorable a
man to treat a girl that way.

~~Remember~~
Tut-tut! -
Well - Has he ^{ever} gone as far as
- to ask ye to marry him? Has he?!
Mattie.

(Hanging her head)

No - he hasn't - not yet -

But - I think - ~~that I have~~ but
I think he would have ~~done~~
~~it~~ at this evening if you -

Demerack

No - he wouldn't - ~~that~~ - no he
wouldn't ~~that~~ - don't you fret -
just girlish imagination - I know
these young ~~blacks~~ (I changed)
And if he had - if he did think
he wanted ^{to marry} you - his family would
see that he changed his
mind, ^{pretty quick} - you'd see! -
Nettie

(Disappointedly)
After all you are a grown man -
with a mind of his own - and
if he loved me - I think he'd
know me ^{in spite of their family}
~~quarrel~~! - ~~I've told you~~ - how
~~much to expect~~ - ~~to see~~ ~~well as of~~
~~that there are serious work~~

(Change)

Disaster

I'll visit only the quarrel
Hattie - ~~you know that -~~
~~you know the reason why~~

about Sumner or any other
man isn't going to marry
into his family!

~~I should be disappointed~~
~~disappointed a great deal~~
~~I should be disappointed a~~

~~great deal - I should be~~
~~disappointed a great deal~~
~~disappointed a great deal~~

~~I should be disappointed~~
~~disappointed a great deal~~
~~disappointed a great deal~~

~~from that man~~
~~this life is mine!~~

~~against Amundson or any man~~
~~wouldn't it be any more~~

Helene,

(Covers her face)

Oh - how can you be so cruel -!

Dunrobert

It's life - Helene - life that is cruel.

Helene,

But I have done nothing! -
Why - oh why do I have to hear
all this too! -

Dunrobert

~~It is life - Helene - it is life - you~~

~~have to suffer for~~

(taking large villager in his hands)

The sins of the fathers - to the third
& fourth generation! - It is life -

believe. You will suffer for the
disgrace your mother has brought
upon his house - that is the
way she pays! -

into this family. - (X)

Hettie.

~~(I was away)~~

~~Oh don't ground father - don't!~~

~~How can I always get so far~~

~~for school that too. -~~

~~(Sincerely) I misunderstand~~

~~for the disgrace in our~~

~~bringing to this house.~~

~~Yes - That is the way she says!~~

~~(Crying) Hettie.~~

~~Oh don't you think she says
enough - with all the people
shunning her and you - you
never letting her forget!~~

~~I misunderstand~~

~~Never! - How am I to forget?! -
tells me that?! - This has
what do you suppose
meant to me - (Sister) with my~~

position my pride - ^{never} ~~I have~~
since that time ~~I have~~ ^{used} my
never ~~been~~
beard up ~~since~~! ~~We~~ have
have I sailed a ship with
my shirt in it since ~~to time~~ ^{then}!
~~never since I have~~
~~stood at the~~
wheel in the teeth of a
gale that there wasn't
another storm ~~of any~~
~~kind~~!!

~~Craving~~ in my breast
~~now on her~~ it should be, I say
tho - no - it should be, I say
it should be! I won't have
~~second~~ it happen a second
time! There must be some honor
left in the life of ~~Samuel~~!

Letter
But what can honor and pride
mean to me! - Disgraced as I
was before ever I was ~~honor~~ ^{desert}!
love of merit!! He is the only
man in his whole town that has

ever been kind to me! - I have
I say! - And -
him & I want him, as a friend -
as anything!!

~~Shame!~~ - ~~Shame!~~ - What have

I done that my women feels
guilty ~~sees in~~ shame! -

~~I will look in your room -~~
~~you shall stay here - forever if~~
~~you shall stay here - forever if~~
~~For ~~somebody~~ I shall keep you from~~
~~disturbing yourself and me, entirely!~~

~~But your father~~
~~so kind to you~~
~~and you so sure~~
~~that I feel~~

(Hettie has gone back by window)
(Ship is seen ~~pulling~~ sailing out
of harbor)

Hettie
(gasps) - Oh - "Look!"

~~Demasch~~
(Going back to window)
She is weighing anchor, ~~she's~~ ~~gone!~~
Hettie

See - It's too late to
matter now - He's gone -
No need of your worrying about
me and about any ~~more~~
ground father - ~~(walking away)~~ ~~that's~~ ~~the~~ ~~end~~ -
for me! ~~gone~~ ~~Three years!~~
the end! - ~~(she is crying softly)~~
(Knocks at door)

(They hear -)
Knocks again and then the door
is thrown open and Captain
Summerson stands in doorway.

Dunsack
(Starts) -
You! -
Mettie

O h Captain Amindon - you?! -

~~Dunsack~~

You can't refuse to see me
~~to Dunsack~~
~~for a few minutes, after~~
all these years, ~~Dunsack?~~ -

§

Dunsack

Go Mettie!

(Mettie goes out slowly frightened
at what may happen)

(Amindon comes forward slowly)

Dunrobin

Why have you come? -

Amundson

~~For a reason that is never~~
~~my heart has my pride~~
~~my former happiness.~~

but to resume our old quarrel
certainly ~~is~~ to make it life;
if possible

Dunrobin

How can that be - ~~it is too~~
late now - too much has gone
before - and ~~it is~~ since ~~it is too~~
late. -

Amundson

Don't make it harder for me
than it is. - ~~There are~~
for old friends to hold a grudge -

~~I regret~~ you - for too long I regret you
but there are seasons now -
seasons that affect others -
makes it vital for us -
look at things from a kinder
point of view. -

Dunrobin
I don't need your kindness - your
fidelity, Sir

Amundson
Tut. Tut - Dunrobin - you mistake my meaning
It is false - pride that has kept
us apart so long - -
I should have taken this
first step long ago - I confess -
- when I found what you
accused me of was true, the
time - but the words we had
had between us kept holding me
back - the hard things we had

Said of one another - I couldn't
forget - ~~and yet - you might~~
~~that have been so kind to me~~
~~because you might have~~

Dunroak

It was only the words - ~~I could~~
~~that only the words -~~

never forget my disappointment
in you Annidon - the fact
that you of all people would
have deceived and lied to me.

Annidon
there were no lies, sir! -
And ¹ ~~you~~ ^{you} might have used
more confidence in me Dunroak -
~~you might have have~~

~~believed my word~~
You might have taken that for
granted - you might ^{have} ~~have~~
the trouble to find out the

cause, the reason - for the
misunderstanding -

Burrows

mis-understanding ?! -

murder

Yes ~~is~~ - mis-understanding -

You were right to be sure -
my slugs were in the ^{last} barrel
of gun trade - I admitted ^{now} - but -

~~was not my knowledge -~~

it was entirely without my
knowledge. - I never found it
and until my eldest son

died - he had been carrying
it on secretly. ^{yes} we had ^{been} living
and gaining off the sin and
members of others. helping to
foster it and ^{to} ~~have~~ ^{be} ~~nothing~~

of it... I have never forgiven
him, never! - Even though ~~he~~
has been in his grave here
ten years - And that, sir -
that is ~~say~~ how it happened
that you were ~~in~~ in
the flight but that I was
in the flight also - as far
as I knew! -

Danmark

And you come to me and tell
me this - now - Now that I
am old and broken man -
with hardly - ~~ship~~ ship
left, - with no friends left -
with ~~disgrace~~ that stain of
disgrace in what family I have -
Why - why do you come to me
now? - What difference can it
make - ~~now~~ - I regret it all
as much as you - But -

Amundson.

~~But - it does make a difference~~
~~much depends upon it!~~
~~my son - happiness depends~~
~~upon me standing between~~
~~you your happiness~~
~~and his death desire~~
~~the gods I will plea for it even on~~
~~my knees. To be so of old that my~~
friend is as nothing compared
to my desire for his happiness -
I met him now as he left
his house - ordered and!
He said love his heart -
He believes your grand daughter
would love him - Self - if
you would consent? -

Amundson.

After a long pause
you mean - you would allow
your son to marry my grand

daughter? -

Amidon

yes -

Dunsack

But - think now, think?!

Amidon

He loves her - and - after all -
the girl is innocent. +

Dunsack

No - no - the sins of the father
to the third & fourth generation -
She must pay - that is her
mother's punishment. -

Amidon

~~Amidon~~, ~~Amidon~~ - that we can
see we go - that we can
judge - and meet our his
punishments? -

judge right and wrong
for others? And have you the heart
to deny happiness - fulfillment,
the ~~joy of life~~ ^{of love} to two innocent
human beings -

Dunstable.

You take my corner stone
from under me - you smother
my resolve to live -

Diminution
(Coming over to him)

Good god, Dunstable - ~~that I~~

~~Let yourself be~~
forget to be iron and steel
for once - forget to be the
master of a ship - and

be yourself. ! - There is
much kindness in you, I have
always known that! ^{your hands} ^{on shoulders}

~~Amundson~~
(Damschr slowly bows his head
and takes Amundson's hand
then slowly turns and walks
back by main door)

Damschr
(After a pause as he stands looking
and)
But if I do consent to
this marriage - I'll sit
two late now - the ship has
~~sailed~~ sailed - three years I the
day may ~~come~~ come back with a drating
Amundson of need!
May ~~call~~ your ~~grand~~ grand daughter?

Damschr

yes. -

Amundson

(Crosses to door, opens it & calling)
Mellie - Mellie Vallar - !

(Hettie comes in looking frightened)

Hettie:
What is it Captain Summerson? -
Summerson

Your grandfather was some-
thing to say to you -

Summerson

(Coming forward slowly)

Hettie - it seems that I was
mistaken, - that I have been

mistaken about many things.

I have misjudged Captain Summerson

~~there~~ by misjudging not only
his honesty but his heart.

He has proved himself a

braver man than I. Has
forgiven ~~me~~ where there
was much to forgive

He is willing that you and
his son should go each
other - ^{even that you} should marry if
it comes to that - first
when the boys return -

(She has broken down -
saying softly -)
Heine.

But grandfather - he's gone &
he's gone L

Amidon ^{Antony}
(goes to door and calls ~~Antony~~)

Captain Geront Amidon -
waited on the morning desk,
sir! -

(Geront appears in doorway)

Hettie

Gov't! —

Demerack

But Captain Amundson — your
ship has sailed, sir! —
I don't want a grand son
that deserts his ~~ship~~ post —
even for a woman! —

Gov't

I join my ship in Boston
harbor, sir — but — (to
Hettie) not alone — if Hettie
will be my wife —

Hettie

(Turning to him) —

Gov't! Gov't! —

Amundson